

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 19, 30 – 32 and 34 are pending; claims 12 – 19 are allowed; claim 32 is objected to; and claims 1 – 11, 30 – 32 and 34 are rejected. The Examiner objects to claim 32 because it depends from a rejected claim, 30. The Examiner rejects claims 1 – 11, 30 – 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,067,609 issued to Hrabak (Hrabak).

The applicant amends claim 1 and 30 to address the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of the claims 1 – 11, 30 – 32 and 34 and asserts the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 because Hrabak fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 1 as amended. More specifically, Hrabak fails to disclose a biasing member that biases the music holding frame and legs to either an extended or retracted position.

The applicant's claim 1, as amended, recites a biasing member linked to the arm and leg and operable to bias the arm and leg to an extended or retracted position.

For example, as shown in FIG. 3 and discussed in paragraphs 7, 8, 18, 22, 28 of the specification, the collapsible support 10 includes two arms 12, two legs 14, and a biasing member 21 to bias the arms 12 and the legs 14 to the retracted position (shown in FIG. 2). When the arms 12 and legs 14 are extended away from the body 16 (shown in FIG. 1), the biasing member 21 is compressed and generates a force to retract the arms 12 and legs 14 back toward the body 16.

In contrast, Hrabak fails to disclose a biasing member that biases the music holding frame and legs to either an extended or retracted position. Hrabak discloses a music stand (shown in FIG. 1) that includes a music holding frame, legs (B in FIG. 1) and a main operating lever C to extend or retract the music holding frame and legs B. But unlike the claimed collapsible support, Hrabak's music stand does not include a

biasing member that biases the music holding frame and legs to either an extended or retracted position.

Claims 2 – 10 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1 as amended. As requested in the Amendment section, applicant cancels claim 11.

Rejection of Claims 30 – 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of claim 30 because Hrabak fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 30 as amended. More specifically, Hrabak fails to disclose moving an arm ring and a leg ring in the same direction to extend an arm and leg of a collapsible support.

The applicant's claim 30 as amended recites moving an arm ring of an arm attachment assembly and a leg ring of a leg attachment assembly in the same direction to simultaneously extend an arm of the arm attachment assembly and a leg of the leg attachment assembly to an extended position.

For example, as shown in FIG. 3 and discussed in paragraphs 7 and 20 of the specification, the collapsible support 10 includes a fixed arm ring 24 and moving arm ring 26 that move relative to each other to extend the arms 12, and a fixed leg ring 30 and moving leg ring 32 that move relative to each other to extend the legs 14. To extend the arms 12 and legs 14, the moving arm ring 26 and the moving leg ring 32 move in the same direction toward the bottom of the collapsible support 10, *i.e.*, the moving arm ring 26 moves toward the fixed arm ring 24 and the moving leg ring 32 moves toward the fixed leg ring 30.

In contrast, Hrabak fails to disclose moving an arm ring and a leg ring in the same direction to extend the music holding frame and the legs of the music stand. As discussed in conjunction with the rejection of claim 1, Hrabak discloses a main operating lever C to extend the music holding frame and legs B. The main operating lever C is connected to the legs B via a connecting link C² and is connected to the music holding frame via a connecting link C¹. When the operating lever C is rotated about the pivot c to expand the music holding frame and extend the legs B, the

connecting link C² moves toward the bottom of the music stand while the connecting link C¹ moves toward the top of the music stand. Thus, unlike the applicant's claimed collapsible support, extending the legs and expanding the music holding frame of Hrabak's music stand does not include moving an arm ring and a leg ring in the same direction.

Claims 31, 32 and 34 are patentable by virtue of their dependencies on claim 30 as amended.

Conclusion

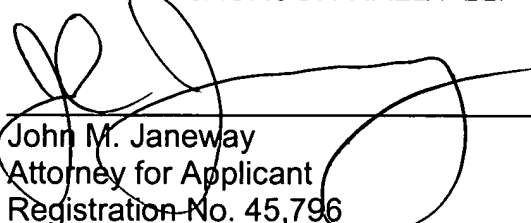
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 1 – 11, 30 – 32 and 34 in view of applicants' amendments and remarks and issue an allowance for these claims as well as the new claims 35 – 37.

Should any additional fees be required because of this amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' attorney, John Janeway, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 11th day of June 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
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